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JOAN LUNDEN: Right now it's 9 minutes after, and that's time to turn to Jack Anderson in Washington.

Jack, good morning.

JACK ANDERSON: Good morning, Joan.

I have access to our secret intelligence on the Falkland Islands war. I'm afraid it doesn't add much to the story. The intelligence reports are just as contradictory and confusing as the news dispatches.

For example, secret intelligence reports out of Buenos Aires claim that the British aircraft carrier Hermes has been damaged. According to these reports, Harrier jets can no longer use the carrier. But there's been no confirmation from the British that the Hermes has even been hit.

The Argentines also claim that eleven Harrier jets have been destroyed or lost. Now that would be half of the jump jets that came with the British force. But the British admit that the loss is only three jets. There are similar discrepancies over the casualty figures. The Argentines have admitted a few hundred casualties. But an intelligence report puts the figure at 1,000 Argentines dead or missing.

The Argentine junta also claims that it has repulsed three attempted British landings on the Falkland Islands. But they admit that some British commandos have made it ashore.

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Now it should be obvious from the confusion that there's a U. S. intelligence gap in the South Atlantic. Washington is relying upon the contradictory information that the British and Argentines are feeding our intelligence agencies. One reason the United States doesn't have reliable intelligence of its own is that we don't have spy satellites or reconnaissance planes focusing on the South Atlantic. Our spy satellites in this hemisphere, for example, are concentrated on Central America and Cuba. The Russians, meanwhile, have beefed up their intelligence-gathering in the Falklands. They had been using submarines, fishing trawlers and reconnaissance aircraft. But on April 21st, the Soviets launched a spy satellite called Cosmos 1352, specifically to keep watch on the Falkland Islands.

Frank?

FRANK GIFFORD: Thank you, Jack.